

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY



“I take you for my lawful wife (husband) to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.”

Marriage is an indissoluble union, contracted by mutual consent, between one man and one woman, in a lawful manner, by which they are obliged to live together all the days of their life. “Therefore now they are not two but one flesh; what therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.” (Matt. 19-6)

The bond of union that subsists between married people, can in no way whatsoever, nor upon any account whatsoever, be dissolved by any human power or authority, while both parties remain in this life. For just causes, especially infidelity to the marriage contract, husband and wife may be separated from one another; yet still the bond of marriage exists

in its full force between them and, if either should remarry another person, they would be guilty of adultery. This is the express Law of Almighty God. (Manual of the Holy Catholic Church by James M^oGovern - 1906)

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

(Taken from Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius XI, 1930)

How great is the dignity of chaste wedlock may be judged best from this, that Christ Our Lord, Son of the Eternal Father, ordained it in a special manner as the principal and foundation of domestic society, and also raised it to the rank of a truly great Sacrament of the New Law. We are deeply grieved on seeing the great number of men who entirely ignore or shamelessly deny the great sanctity of Christian wedlock. Since these pernicious errors have begun to spread even among the faithful and are gradually gaining ground, We consider it our duty to raise Our voice to keep the flock committed to Our care from poisoned pastures, and as far as in Us lies, to preserve it from harm.

The principal ends of marriage were laid down in the beginning by God Himself in the words: Increase and Multiply. Christian parents must understand that they are destined not only to propagate and preserve the human race on earth, but to educate their children who are to become members of the Church of Christ, partakers of immortal life and heirs of that eternal glory to which we all aspire. The right and duty to educate their offspring belongs in the first place to the parents who gave them birth. The Sacrament of Matrimony perfects love, confirms the indissolubility of the union and sanctifies both man and wife.

Not under cover but openly: writings, theatrical productions of every kind, radio and all sorts of inventions of modern science, trample the sanctity of marriage. Divorce and adultery, and all the basest vices are commonly extolled and defended by modern genius. Timothy hath exhorted us, ***“Be thou vigilant ... Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, entreat, rebuke in all patience and doctrine.”*** (2 Tim. 4, 2-5)

In order that the enemies' deceits may be avoided, it is first necessary that they be laid bare. For the welfare of souls, We cannot remain silent. New forms of matrimony are concocted by man and labeled: **TEMPORARY, EXPERIMENTAL AND COMPANIONATE.**

Some look upon children as a burden. But no reason, however grave may be put forward by which anything intrinsically against nature may become morally good. The conjugal act is destined primarily by nature for the begetting of children and those who deliberately frustrate its natural power and propose sin against nature commit a deed which is shameful and intrinsically vicious. Who is not filled with admiration to see a mother preserve the life of her offspring which she has conceived even though her own life may be in danger? God alone, all bountiful and all merciful as He is, will reward her for the fulfillment of the office allotted to her by nature and will assuredly repay her in a measure full to overflowing. No difficulty can arise that justifies the putting aside of the Law of God which forbids all acts intrinsically evil. God does not ask the impossible. There are no possible circumstances in which husband and wife cannot, strengthened by the Grace

of God, fulfill faithfully their duties and preserve in wedlock their chastity unspotted. The family is most sacred. Men are begotten not for the earth and for time, but for Heaven and Eternity. The house built upon a rock, that is to say conjugal chastity, strengthened by a deliberate and constant union of spirit, will not only never fall away, but will never be shaken by adversity.

The Church strongly warns against mixed marriages. Where there exists diversity of mind, truth and feeling, the bond of union of mind and heart is wont to be broken, or at least weakened.

***What God has joined TOGETHER,
Let no man put asunder.***



Let us bear in mind the solemn pronouncement of the Council of Trent:

“If anyone should say that on account of heresy or the hardships of cohabitation or a deliberate abuse of one party by the other, the marriage tie may be loosened, let him be anathema ...”

The objections brought against the firmness of marriage are clearly answered. For, in certain circumstances, imperfect separation of the parties is allowed, but the marriage bond is never severed. Let the faithful be on their guard against the overrated independence of private judgment and the false autonomy of human reason. A characteristic of all true followers of Christ, lettered or unlettered, is to suffer themselves to be guided and led in all things that touch upon Faith or morals by the Holy Church of God through the Supreme Pastor, the Roman Pontiff, who is himself guided by Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Let the faithful constantly keep in mind that they have been sanctified and strengthened for the duties and dignity of their state by a special Sacrament, the efficacious power of which is undying. As long as they remain alive, so long is their union a Sacrament of Christ and the Church.

Ven. Brethren, be ever on your guard against the dangers advocated by the teachers of error, live soberly, justly and godly in this world, looking for the blessed Hope and coming of the Glory of God and Our Savior Jesus Christ.



Baptism is usually administered outside the Communion rail, so is the Sacrament of Penance. When we receive Holy Communion or Confirmation, we

kneel outside the Sanctuary. But at Marriage, provided it is celebrated in conjunction with Holy Mass, the Church throws open the gates of the Sanctuary, and introduces the candidates into the Holy of Holies, to the very spot where are offered the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Why is holy Matrimony celebrated in connection with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is the representation of Our Lord's Death on the Cross? **FOR THIS SIGNIFICANT REASON THAT OUR LORD'S DEATH ON CALVARY WAS AT THE SAME TIME THE GREATEST TRAGEDY AND THE HIGHEST TRIUMPH OF LOVE!** From it, the candidates are to learn, at the very moment of their marriage, their life, too, will be one of great and tremendous sacrifices, which will draw upon all the resources of their love and, by this endurance, their mutual love will best show its genuineness and celebrate its finest triumphs.

Saint Raphael, loving Patron of those seeking a marriage partner, help me in this supreme decision of my life. May he (she) be upright, loyal, pure, sincere and noble, so that with united efforts, and with chaste and unselfish love, we both may strive to perfect ourselves in soul and body as well as the children it may please God to entrust to our care.



PRAYER OF SPOUSES FOR EACH OTHER

O SWEET JESUS, GRANT THAT I AND MY SPOUSE MAY HAVE A TRUE AND UNDERSTANDING LOVE FOR EACH OTHER. GRANT THAT WE MAY BOTH BE FILLED WITH FAITH AND TRUST. GIVE US THE GRACE TO LIVE WITH EACH OTHER IN PEACE AND HARMONY. MAY WE ALWAYS BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER'S WEAKNESSES AND GROW FROM EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS. HELP US TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER'S FAILINGS AND GRANT US PATIENCE, KINDNESS, CHEERFULNESS AND THE SPIRIT OF PLACING THE WELL-BEING OF ONE ANOTHER AHEAD OF SELF.

MAY THE LOVE THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER GROW AND MATURE WITH EACH PASSING YEAR. BRING US BOTH EVER CLOSER TO THEE THROUGH OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER. LET OUR LOVE GROW TO PERFECTION. AMEN.